

*LAS CASES SENT FROM ST.  
HELENA.*

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although beaten the day before, assembled his troops, and brought them into action in the evening. I believe, however," continued Napoleon, "that Wellington is a man of great firmness. The glory of such a victory is a great thing; but in the eye of the historian his military reputation will gain nothing by it."<sup>1</sup>

"I always had a high opinion of your seamen," said Napoleon one day to O'Meara, in a conversation arising out of the expedition to Algiers. "When I was returning from Holland along with the Empress Maria Louisa we stopped to rest at Givet. During the night a violent storm of wind and rain came on, which swelled the Meuse so much that the bridge of boats over it was carried away. I was very anxious to depart, and ordered all the boatmen in the place to be assembled that I might be enabled to cross the river. They said that the waters were so high that it would be impossible to pass before two or three days. I questioned some of them, and soon discovered that they were fresh-water seamen. I then recollected that there were English prisoners in the barracks, and ordered that some of the oldest and best seamen among them should be brought before me to the banks of the river. The waters were very high, and the current rapid and dangerous. I asked them if they could join a number of boats together so that I might pass over. They answered that it was possible, but hazardous. I desired them to set about it instantly. In the course of a few hours they succeeded in effecting what the others had pronounced to be impossible, and I crossed before the evening was over. I ordered those who had worked at it to receive a sum of money each, a suit of clothes, and their liberty. Marchand was with me at the time."

In December, 1816, Las Cases was compelled to leave St. Helena. He had written a letter to Lucien Bonaparte, and intrusted it to a mulatto servant to be forwarded to Europe. He was detected; and as he was thus endeavoring to carry on (contrary to the regulations of the island) a clandestine

correspondence with Europe, Las Cases and his son were sent off, first to the Cape and then to England, where they were <sup>1</sup> O'Meara's Journal for 26th March, 1817. Compare *Sir W. Gomm*, p. 365.